

# BARTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

David Werdegar, M.D.  
Health Policy and Planning Division  
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
1600 9th Street, Room 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 19, 1995

Dear Dr. Werdegar,

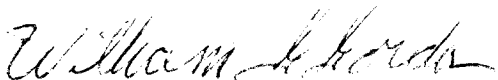
Barton Memorial Hospital has researched the data received from OSHPD and we have evaluated, per your instructions, acute myocardial infarction cases that required transfer to other facilities.

As in last year's report, greater than 85% of all acute myocardial infarction patients that required transfer to other facilities were transferred to acute care hospitals in Reno, Nevada, as they are closer in proximity than California hospitals. This accounts for your inability to track reported transfers as the state of Nevada does not report to the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Barton Memorial hospital regularly chooses to send acute myocardial infarction patients requiring transfer to these hospitals for a number of reasons. Other than close proximity, we believe our physicians exercise prudent judgement in transferring a patient to the nearest hospital thereby reducing the risk to the patient during transfer. Furthermore, Reno hospitals usually have beds immediately available enabling rapid transfer. Of equal importance is the fact that it is much easier for patient's families to travel one hour to Reno as opposed to two hours to Sacramento. Finally, many insurance policies mandate transfer to the nearest facility to comply with policy requirements and restrictions. Barton Memorial Hospital feels that all these issues are important factors in delivering quality health care to our community.

We regret that our data may not represent your clinical picture, but our coding, abstracting, and data submission of the Patient Uniform Discharge Data Set are correct as reported.

Sincerely,



William G. Gordon, Chief Executive Officer  
Barton Memorial Hospital

WGG/jw